



## Why Should You Work for the Forest Service?

- Help preserve and protect the nation's natural resources into the 21st century
- Work in the great outdoors
- Enjoy a challenging work experience
- Work in a variety of locations throughout the U.S.
- Pursue opportunities for upward mobility

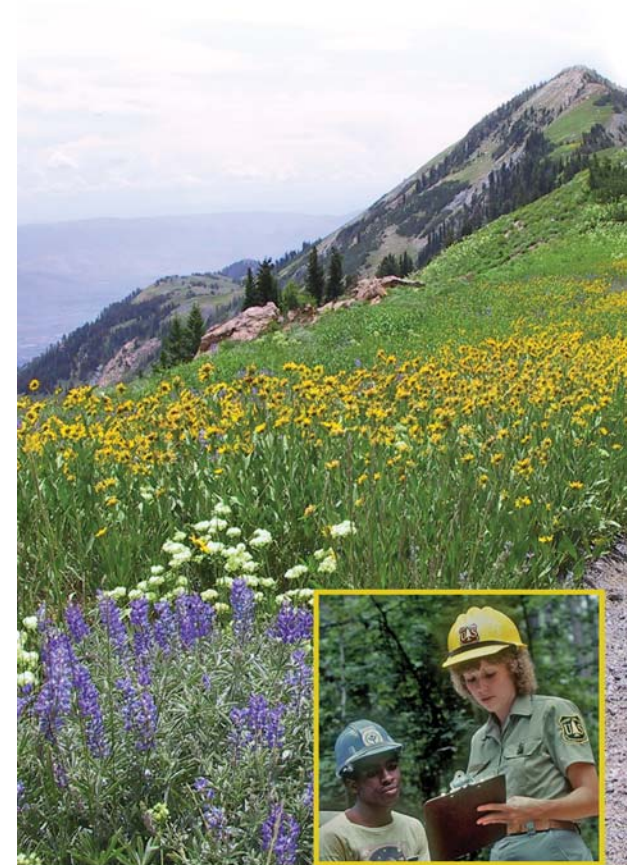
## For More Information

If you are a veteran who is interested in a career opportunity with the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, current employment information will be posted at this web address, including a link for veterans:

[www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/)

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Careers in the Forest Service for Veterans and Wounded Warriors



Working for the Great Outdoors



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service



# What is the Forest Service?

Established in 1905, the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands – both national forests and grasslands. This work includes protecting and improving the habitat for wildlife and fish; managing vegetation for improved health; fighting fires; managing timber; enhancing watersheds; managing recreation areas, wilderness, trails and roads; and protecting cultural resources. More than 193 million acres of land in the United States have been set aside as a national forest or a grassland – an area of land equivalent to the size of Texas. [www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/](http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/)

## Where Are National Forests Located?

There are national forests or grasslands in 42 states and in Puerto Rico, both in rural and urban areas. The administrative offices can be in small towns with populations of less than 1,000; or in large cities like Atlanta or Portland. [www.fs.fed.us/maps/](http://www.fs.fed.us/maps/)

## What Are the Job Qualifications?

Clerical, administrative, technical, professional and blue collar work requires a certain level of general or specialized experience. Education may often be substituted for experience, or used in combination with experience, to meet the job requirements. The “Minimum Federal Qualification Requirements” paragraph of each vacancy announcement outlines these criteria. In addition, applicants complete a questionnaire about their level of knowledge, skill and ability for each job vacancy. Many vets have the skills and/or educational requirements to match Forest Service jobs. All professional jobs, such as wildlife biologists and foresters, have minimum educational requirements that must be met through coursework at an accredited educational institution.



## Who Works for the Forest Service?

The Forest Service employs approximately 32,000 permanent employees across the nation – a diversity of people and skills. The workforce includes foresters,

computer technicians, botanists, landscape architects, accountants, receptionists, civil engineers, archeologists, firefighters, wildlife biologists, fishery biologists, geologists, soil scientists, ecologists, etc. The jobs can be administrative, clerical, blue collar, technical and professional. Most positions are permanent full-time. The Forest Service also hires permanent seasonal and permanent part-time workers, as well as many temporary workers. [www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/)



## Can People With Disabilities Apply?

The Forest Service hires people with a range of disabilities and these employees perform a variety of jobs. Applicants might be challenged in a physical or mental capacity, and this does not preclude them from applying for a job. A successful candidate has to be able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without accommodations. The Forest Service works with other supporting state and federal agencies in providing the most efficient, adaptive support.

## About How Many Jobs Are Available?

Like any large employer, there will be a fair amount of job vacancies and interest. Each year the Forest Service advertises approximately 2,500 permanent and 18,000 temporary positions across the country. Applicants with greater flexibility for geographic locations will find more jobs of interest. Once a candidate has been hired, even more opportunities are available. Federal employees can compete for higher-grade positions in other locations, if they meet the qualifications.

## What About Temporary Employment?

Each year the Forest Service seeks temporary employees for jobs such as firefighter, trail crew worker, engineering aid, etc. Many of the job announcements for temporary work are continuously open, like the recruitment bulletins for fire and non-fire positions located throughout the country. Job announcements are posted at the web site for USAJOBS [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) and Avue Digital Services (ADS) [www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html](http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html). Some temporary positions require the candidate to be registered in a secondary education program, like a trade school or college. Temporary positions often provide the experience needed to qualify for a permanent federal job.

## APPLYING AS A VETERAN

### Does Veterans Preference Help When Applying for a Forest Service Position?

When an agency like the Forest Service advertises a job vacancy through the Office of Personnel Management, or locally through a direct hire authority such as “Demo,” the agency must select from the top-rated, eligible applicants. Veterans preference gives special consideration to eligible veterans looking for federal employment. The hiring official may not pass over a veterans-preference eligible candidate and appoint a non-veterans-preference eligible candidate who is lower on the list unless the reasons for passing over the veteran are sufficient. Veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces during certain specified time periods, or in military campaigns, are entitled to preference over non-veterans. This applies during hiring into federal civil service, and for retention during reductions-in-force. [www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp](http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp)

### Will Military Experience Help With the Qualifications for a Forest Service Job?

Many military positions and skills are related to Forest Service jobs and therefore will qualify as experience. Examples include:

Military Position	Forest Service Position
Special Operations Qualified; preferably Airborne, Airmobile or Pathfinder	Firefighter, Smoke Jumper, Helicopter Rappeller, Forestry Technician or Aid
Military Police	Forest Service Law Enforcement
Combat Arms	Firefighter, Trail Crew, Forestry Technician or Aid
Combat or Combat Support (Quartermaster)	Acquisition Management
Combat or Construction Engineer/Seabees/Redhorse	Civil Engineering, Land Surveying Professional, Technical and Aid
Intelligence, Engineer or Fire Support	GIS